THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During the visit of the then Raksha Mantri to Russia in October, 1997 both India and Russia agreed, in principle, to extend the existing Long Term Programme of Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries, beyond December, 1999 and up to the year 2010. The draft text of the Agreement was finalised during the visit of Defence Secretary to Russia from 15—19 June, 1998. The draft text provides for the mechanism for implementing and monitoring the long-term programme of military technical co-operation. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of activities under the Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

Using IAF aircraft for non-official purposes

4618. SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the penalties that are prescribed for a Minister or offcial of his Ministry who uses IAF Aircraft for non-official purposes and misrepresent them to have been Official?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): If an official journey is later proved to be a non-official one, recovery proceedings can be initiated by the appropriate competent authority.

Recovering of IAF aircraft expenditure

4619. SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether there is any provision of law under which Government may waive responsibility of recovering the expenditure incurred on IAF aircraft by the Defence Minister for non-official journeys unconnected with the work of the Defence Ministry?:

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): The rules in force state that no recoveries will be made only in cases in which the Prime Minister considers it desirable that airlifts should be provided free of charge for reasons of state.

Jawans to distinguish alien aircrafts

4620. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the surveillance system on the aircraft flying in the insurgency-ridden North-East has been revamped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any specialised training has been given to jawans to distinguish between our own and the alien aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Surveillance System in the North-East has been improved. However, in the interest of national security it will not be desirable to disclose the details in this regard.

Defence radar system on Western Coast

4621. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether radar system of Navy and other defence forces on Western Coast is not functioning properly;

(b) whether the warning of coming cyclone approaching west coast that caused havoc on 9th June, 1998 in Kandla in Gujarat was not noticed on radar system; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure proper functioning of radar system on Western Coast of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (d) The Indian Navy and Indian Air Force do not have dedicated weather radars. Such radars are normally operated by the India Meteorological